

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein said body and said securement device are unitary.
3. (Original) The catheter connector according to claim 2, wherein said securement device is attached to said body by a living hinge.
4. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein said securement device is separately attachable to said body.
5. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein said body further comprises a ribbed region.
6. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein said cannula is comprised of metal.
7. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein said tail comprises a barbed end.
8. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein the blunt distal end of said cannula comprises a rounded edge.
9. (Canceled).
10. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein said mating portions are connected by a living hinge.

11. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein said mating portions comprise catheter receiving portions having distal ends that are funneled outward.

12. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein said mating portions comprise catheter receiving portions that together accommodate said catheter when closed therearound so that a tight seal is formed between said catheter receiving portions and said catheter.

13. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein said mating portions comprise locking portions having rounded distal ends.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The catheter connector according to claim 1, further comprising A catheter connector, comprising:~~

a body comprising a cannula and a tail, said cannula extending from a distal end of said body and including a blunt distal end configured for insertion into a proximal end of a catheter following placement of a distal end of the catheter in a patient, said tail extending from a proximal end of said body configured for insertion into a distal end of a tube, wherein said body establishes fluid communication between the tube and the catheter;

a securing device attached to the distal end of the body, comprising mating portions configured to secure said catheter to said body by locking together directly around said catheter following insertion of the cannula into the catheter; and

a winged covering apparatus positioned over at least a portion of said body.

15. (Original) The catheter connector according to claim 14, wherein said winged covering apparatus is made of silicone.

16. (Original) The catheter connector according to claim 14, wherein said body further comprises a region having a non-uniform outer surface, said winged covering apparatus comprising an inner surface configured to mesh with said non-uniform outer surface to prevent relative movement of said body with respect to said winged covering apparatus.

17. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 14 +, wherein said body further comprises a head positioned at a distal end thereof, said cannula extending from said head.

18. (Original) The catheter connector according to claim 17, wherein said mating portions are separately attached to said body and comprise cut-away portions to receive said head therein.

19. (Original) The catheter connector according to claim 18, wherein said head is slightly smaller than said cut-away portions.

20. (Currently amended) The catheter connector according to claim 1, A catheter connector, comprising:

a body comprising a cannula and a tail, said cannula extending from a distal end of said body and including a blunt distal end configured for insertion into a proximal end of a catheter following placement of a distal end of the catheter in a patient, said tail extending from a proximal end of said body configured for insertion into a distal end of a tube, wherein said body establishes fluid communication between the tube and the catheter;

a securing device attached to the distal end of the body, comprising mating portions configured to secure said catheter to said body by locking together directly around said catheter following insertion of the cannula into the catheter, wherein said mating portions further comprise catheter gripping liners.

21. (Previously presented) An assembly for connecting a catheter to extracorporeal medical equipment, comprising:

a catheter connector comprising a body having a lumen therethrough and a securing device attached at two separate locations to said body at a distal end thereof, said securing device configured to secure a catheter to said body such that said body lumen is in fluid communication with said catheter;

a tube connected at one end to a proximal end of said body and at an opposite end to a hub such that said body lumen is in fluid communication with said hub; and

a covering positioned over at least a portion of said body and said tube, said covering being adapted for attachment to a patient.

22. (Previously presented) The catheter connector according to claim 21, wherein said body includes a catheter receiving member extending from a distal end thereof.

23. (Previously presented) The catheter connector according to claim 22, wherein the catheter receiving member includes a first and second cannula configured to receive a dual lumen catheter thereover.

24. (Original) The catheter connector according to claim 21, wherein said covering comprises winged portions.

25. (Original) The catheter connector according to claim 21, further comprising a sleeve to secure said tube to said hub.

26-45. (Cancelled).